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JAN 24 2014

ADULT AND PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

FCC Mail Room
 DIPLOMATE AMERICAN BOARD OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY
 AANS SECTION OF PEDIATRIC NEUROSURGERY

1/16/14

FCC
 445 12th ST. SW
 Washington, DC 20554

Re: Use of cell phones on Airplanes.

The use of voice cell phone calls on commercial flights is a Terrible idea.

Take cell use in Starbucks - everyone on a call is loud - i.e. the "cell-yell"

One person on a cell phone in flight would impact 10-15 people. Conflict would be inevitable.

I am a peaceful physician BUT would verbally object to a cell call in flight vociferously.

Please note this objection
 John S. Boggs MD

Fliers Sound Off About Cellphones

By CAITLIN HUSTON
AND SARAH E. NEEDLEMAN

"Can you imagine sitting next to a teenager for three hours who talks and says 'NOTHING,'" wrote Sherry Friedlander of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., in a note to the Federal Communications Commission in November.

Or "a loudmouth salesperson...trying to impress" airline passengers, she added, identifying herself as the founder of a nonprofit.

The gates opened Wednesday on what officially will be the first of two 30-day public comment periods on the FCC's proposal to allow in-flight cellphone use on commercial flights. The agency's proposal, issued Dec. 12, would "remove existing, narrow restrictions on airborne use of mobile devices," enabling airlines to offer wireless services, including cellphone calls, at 10,000 feet and above.

Teenagers are often cited as a reason to ban in-flight cellphone use.

The FCC has barred in-flight cellphone use since 1991, citing concerns over interference with cellphone towers on the ground. The new move seeks to "modernize outdated regulations" and "keep pace with new technology," the agency said.

Yet even before the comment period officially began, hundreds of people started airing concerns.

"The Shactman Family wishes to inform that we will fly no airline that has unlimited cellphone access," declared Alan Shactman, an 81-year-old insurance broker in Danvers, Mass., in a letter to the FCC in November. "We have timesharing in the Caribbean and in anticipation of such a decision, we would sell the timesharing and stay within the U.S."

"In cramped airline cabins, passions already run high. Even when people try to talk quietly on mobile phones, they speak more loudly than they expect," wrote Scott Flesner of Cedar-

burg, Wis., in a note to the FCC Tuesday. He worries that loud cellphone conversations will lead to midflight confrontations and endanger the lives of passengers and crew.

Complaints to the FCC began flying in roughly two months ago, at the height of news coverage of the proposal. As of Wednesday, 412 people had submitted comments to the FCC since the proposal was unveiled, nearly all opposing the move.

As far as when a ruling will happen in in-flight cellphone use, "FCC staff will review the entire record," a spokeswoman said. The wireless telecommunications bureau staff, part of the FCC, reviews the comments and then makes a recommendation to the office of the chairman.

Richard Karger, chairman and CEO of Rothschild Investment Corp., a Chicago investment firm, said he has seen verbal disagreements over mobile calls on passenger trains. "Realistically, it would just make it a lot less pleasant" to fly, said Mr. Karger. After all, he notes, it is possible to be productive on a flight without talking on the phone: "You can still work on your computer and get a lot of things accomplished."

Teenagers are often cited as a reason to ban in-flight cellphone use. "Most people use their flight time to sleep, work on business and/or relax...Every teenager and rude adult will rule the once pleasant environment," wrote Pamela Gould, owner of a landscape company in Kula, Hawaii, who flies about a dozen times a year.

Some say, at 30,000 feet and above, an airplane cabin is one of the few places left where they can take a breather from their own phones, let alone phones of others. "What's going to happen when mobile communication above 10,000 feet is allowed, and John Smith receives a phone call midflight from his wife of 23 years, Jane Smith, announcing she wants a divorce?" asked Stephanie D. Zonis, a food writer from Branchburg, N.J.

—Angus Loten, Jack Niclas,
Gautham Nagesh
and Scott Patterson
contributed to this article.